

LOOKING FOR A GRANT?

Please keep in mind that federal grants typically fund *projects* and *research*, not people or small businesses (this includes farms, both traditional *and* aquaponic). **State and Federal grants are *not* for individuals looking to begin, save, maintain or expand a business.** Federal grants are paid for by taxpayers, so there are *very strict* eligibility, application, selection and reporting requirements.

Generally, you must be an *IRS-designated*-non-profit (i.e. 501(c)3), cooperative, commission, university, or state/local governmental entity to qualify for a federal grant. If you're advised to form a non-profit just for the sake of getting federal grants, you're being misled! It's not that simple.

That said, below are some resources that could be helpful in your search. **Note that the below grants are *not* administered through the Georgia Department of Agriculture** and the *only* information that we can provide on these grants is contained in the links below.

One set of agriculture grants that *may* occasionally be available to individuals (on a competitive basis with specific requirements) are the USDA-SARE grants: <http://www.southernsare.org/Grants/Types-of-Grants>

Another set are administered by NRCS/USDA:

http://www.nrcs.usda.gov/wps/portal/nrcs/detailfull/ga/home/?cid=nrcs144p2_021771

If you're looking to *start* a farm, here is some good info: <http://www.start2farm.gov/>

The Small Business Administration offers low interest **loans** for those who qualify <http://www.sba.gov/>

The USDA also offers a **loan** program:

<http://www.fsa.usda.gov/FSA/webapp?area=home&subject=fmlp&topic=landing>

So does the Georgia Development Authority (GDA): <https://www.gdaonline.com/>

Do you own a farm? You may want to speak with someone from your local [county agriculture extension office](#), as well as the local [USDA Rural Development office](#). They may be able to give you some advice. Keep in mind that your local city/county likely has requirements for farms that you must adhere to as well.

You may also want to read these **helpful articles** from the FSA and the SBA, which clear-up some of the most common misconceptions about Federal grants:

http://askfsa.custhelp.com/app/answers/detail/a_id/1179

<https://www.sba.gov/blogs/truth-behind-government-grants-small-businesses>

And finally, from the Federal government's own [Grants.gov](#) Website: Are you an individual or family looking for financial assistance? Visit the [Benefits.gov](#) site and find benefits, browse State programs, or learn about Federal programs. We have all seen them; late night infomercials, websites, and reference guides, advertising "millions in free money". **Don't believe the hype!** Although there are many funding opportunities on Grants.gov, few of them are available to individuals and *none* of them are available for personal financial assistance. To find an alphabetical listing of federal personal assistance visit the [USA.gov website](#).

Best of luck to you in your search.